mobile trails are provided to accommodate the growing popularity of outdoor winter activities. More than 140 commercial concessions operate in the parks, offering a variety of services ranging from restaurants to riding stables and boat marinas.

The largest of Manitoba's provincial parks is the Whiteshell, covering about 1,056 square miles and located about 130 kilometres east of Winnipeg adjacent to the Ontario boundary. It is the province's most developed and intensively used park. The townsite of Falcon Lake has an 18-hole golf course, marina, tennis courts, bowling greens, riding stables, and modern shopping centre. There is a ski resort nearby.

Spruce Woods Provincial Park, situated southeast of Brandon, features oxbow lakes and upland areas of shifting sand dunes, including prime examples of "desert" country.

Birds Hill Provincial Park is about 23 km northeast of Winnipeg. It was established to fill the growing need for outdoor recreation areas close to the provincial captial. The park, which has large, open grassed areas in its mixed woodlands for group activities, is open year-round and is used for both winter and summer sports.

Hecla Provincial Park, located on the west shore of Lake Winnipeg about 145 km north of Winnipeg, is one of the newer parks. Hecla is water-oriented, but also includes a golf course, hiking trails, and tennis courts. A major resort is located at Gulf Harbour on the northeastern tip of Hecla Island.

Other parks include Grand Beach, on Lake Winnipeg; Turtle Mountain, in southwestern Manitoba; Asessippi, along the Assiniboine River in western Manitoba; and Nopiming, Manitoba's newest provincial natural park, situated north of the Whiteshell.

The entrance fee for vehicles at most provincial parks is $2.00 daily, or $10 for a seasonal pass.

Vacation and recreation areas are being expanded and rehabilitated, to provide new camping and improved day-use facilities. Within the parks there are programs to preserve and interpret sites, large and small, that illustrate the natural and human history of Manitoba. Surveys and studies are being conducted to plan and guide the future development of the province's recreational facilities.

The popularity of Manitoba's park system is reflected in the 4.0 million visitors, in 1.1 million vehicles, to the parks in the 1981 season.

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